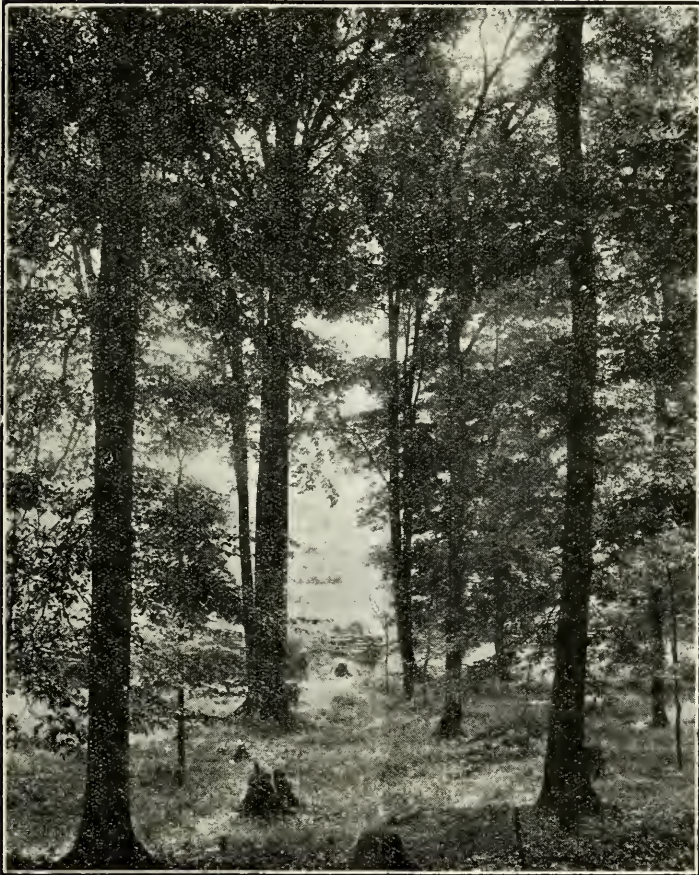


THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840



The Sacred Grove Near Palmyra

Where the Prophet Beheld the Father and the Son

(See article page 562)

PALMYRA'S OFFICIAL GREETINGS

By JUDGE S. NELSON SAWYER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, some weeks ago when I was asked to address you this afternoon, I deemed it a great honour, and I accepted instantly and I expected fully to do that which I promised to do. Intervening conditions have made that quite impossible. I could not, however, stay away from this interesting and most historical gathering, nor could I refrain from doing myself the honour of extending to you at least the welcome of this community in which you find yourselves today, and in which many of you dwell and in which is located the Sacred Grove from which sprang the immediate source of the cause of our meeting.

About Palmyra

THIS address given by Judge Sawyer, mayor of Palmyra, New York, at the recent dedicatory services of Book of Mormon monument at Hill Cumorah (see *Star* August 8) bespeaks the respect now held for the Church by once ill-informed people in the vicinity of the birth-place of the restored Gospel, and throughout the world.

Located near Palmyra is the Sacred Grove (see cover), where the Prophet Joseph Smith received in 1820 the first vision, beholding the Father and the Son. Nearby is Hill Cumorah, where the Angel Moroni delivered the golden plates September 22, 1827. First copies of the Book of Mormon were printed in Palmyra by Egbert B. Grandin in 1830.

I was born in the village of Palmyra; it was but a few years after those great events which are today so beautifully commemorated. All my life, nearly four score years, I have spent in this community. May I, as I give you the welcome of this community, and extend to you its heartfelt greetings, tell you of things I have seen and the great changes that have been wrought under the providence of God in those years.

You know, of course, I was born into an atmosphere of prejudice. I knew in my childhood and in my early youth many, many people who lived here in 1830 and 1835, and so on down until one by one they were taken away. I knew many people who knew Joseph Smith and his family and his colleagues, if I may use that term. I have heard those events discussed again and again, and I stand here before you and say frankly, with shame, that the prejudice which then was universal was instilled into the minds of the children, although they knew not why, and neither was it instilled in them knowingly; it simply was

imbibed because it was as the air that surrounded them.

Many years ago, when I was still a lad not entirely out of school, I met, one evening, two young gentlemen. Their names I know not. They passed from me years ago. I learned that they were Mormon missionaries; I learned that they were going somewhere on the errand of their faith. In the conversation that followed, I very rudely made a slighting comment regarding the founder of your faith (I have never had an opportunity to apologize, but I do it now freely) without any cause or reason

whatever, but it was simply an outburst of that which I have heard all my life until then.

These two young gentlemen, one of them I particularly recall, flushed, but controlled themselves and then said to me:

“Mr. Sawyer, if you will go back to Jerusalem, they will there tell you the same thing concerning Jesus Christ whom you follow that you now tell me concerning Joseph Smith.”

It was the most severe rebuke that I ever received, and likewise it was a just rebuke; and while the man, if he still be living, has no thought of the impression that it made, he set my mind to thinking for the first time in my life, that like everything else, there might be two sides to even that question, although I had been taught otherwise.

I HAVE lived to see the day, as have you, when all that prejudice, or substantially all that prejudice, has passed and gone. I think it due more than anything else to the character of the young gentlemen like those who from time to time have gone out from among you—their wisdom and their discretion and above all their believing faith. Times have changed. The world has changed—it has been said that differences in religion and disputed points of doctrine have caused more misery in the world than all the wars with which the world has been inflicted. I think that is true, but in the end, as my predecessor has said, out of it all comes the sunshine and the glory of righteousness—out of it all comes that which was intended from the beginning, that men shall worship God freely, and in the beauty of holiness and as they will.

Kirtland, Nauvoo, all the sorrows and miseries of the trip across the plains, until finally in apparently the most unpromising place on earth Salt Lake City was founded, are now but stories that are told—they are but memories in the minds of the children gained from the lips of those who endured. All that is desirable comes from labour; all that is good and true comes from honest, sincere effort, and above all, ever facing the things that are necessary to face in order to carry out that which the heart tells us to be carried out.

Out of it all, Salt Lake City, Utah from an arid desert has become one of the most beautiful places in our country. From a proscribed people, its people are among those honoured throughout the land, honoured because they have served not only their God, but their land. From those people have come the best of our leaders. There is no one so prejudiced as he who gains the first prejudiced impression—he who thinks he knows all when he knows nothing. Out of it all today you and I, and all others, regardless of politics, regardless of all else, are together a united people. All along, the commandments, in the final analysis, are found in the Golden Rule, “Do unto your neighbour as you would that he should do unto you.”

And in these happier days that spirit prevails everywhere. We are not Mormons or Presbyterians or Episcopalians or Roman Catholics or whatnot—we are children of Almighty God.

So I say to you today that we people of Palmyra welcome you with open arms. God bless you and keep you and speed your work as well as ours.

THE AUTUMN CONFERENCES

By President Joseph J. Cannon

AN inquiry for suggestions regarding the autumn conferences was sent out last June to the travelling elders and the district presidents. From a sheaf of responses, we draw the programme that is now submitted.

It has been suggested that the Saturday gatherings might be largely a branch matter, because distant saints, not able to travel back and forth twice, could hardly pay hotel bills for the Saturday night stayover. This plan nevertheless was urged by some of the wisest men in the district presidencies.

It was decided therefore to ask the presidency of each district to name an active committee to work on the housing of the visitors on this basis, that the guests should not be charged for lodging, but that they should pay for their food. And in fixing this charge, the hosts should consider food cost and add very little for the labour of preparing it.

Saturday afternoon and evening will be characterized by social and recreational activity. The children will hold forth from five to six-thirty, with one number from the Singing Mothers, the new singing group of the Relief Society. The evening will be a song and play festival. Surprises await you and your friends who attend. There will be no charge for attendance.

At these Saturday as well as the Sunday functions, the Mission M Men quartette, Elders Porter, Jackson, Langton and Astin, will take part. Sister Elizabeth Cornwall of the Mission Primaries will also attend and help make the programme.

Sunday morning at ten o'clock there will be a testimony meeting for fifty minutes. It will start on time, we hope, and give that opportunity to the saints of the district to hear one another in this most precious of all gatherings.

The eleven o'clock meeting will be for investigators as well as saints. There will be special singing, and the travelling elders and authorities from London will speak.

The afternoon session will be unusual. It will consist of special music, including the Quartette and congregational singing, and the Challenge of the M. I. A. Slogan: We stand for Spirituality and Happiness in the Home. Responses will be given by a Bee-Hive Girl, a Scout, a Gleaner Girl, an M Man, a mother and a father.

The evening will be taken up mainly by the authorities from London.

Cards will soon be placed in the hands of the saints asking them to write names of friends they will try to bring to conference. Ribbons will be distributed to be worn during conference week. We hope for and expect to have a grand time, a spiritual feast, a renewal of our enthusiasm, and an increase of our faith.

VITAL are the leisure hours; in them we win or lose eternity.—
LORADE TAFT.

A CALL TO THE YOUTH OF BRITAIN

By John Bleakley

THE nibbled moon, poised low in the heavenly dome, illumined the shark-toothed tents, gleaming white and tartar-stained. Above, through the clear air, twinkled familiar Venms and her starry fellowship. A night still enough to hear the spider spin was the strange close of a busy day.

The Way faded, stars dimmed, the colour of night paled. A hushed twitter of birds in the hedge grew; there was a far-off bleat of a lamb; the cock crowed. Out of the still of night was born a new day. A glow on the horizon of the fast-lightening sky heralded the burst of flame as Sol sprang from the waters quickened by his journeying in the East.

A new season dawns. Life's wheel passes the zero. The latest revolution is a retrospection. But memory, the nursery in which children who have grown old play with their broken toys, teaches us much. Failures dig the foundations of success. Triumphs encourage the future effort. The clean unspotted page of a fresh record instills a new determination.

In September, 1934 the Young Men's and Young Women's Mutual Improvement Associations of Great Britain entered a new sphere of ideas, changed programmes and fresh hopes. Some ambitions were realized. Some failed. But during the year 1934-35 all previous enrollment and attendance figures were bettered. Last year's records paint the picture:

Y.M.M.I.A. ENROLLMENT	Y.W.M.I.A. ENROLLMENT
Officers 222	Officers 297
Adults 35	Adults 76
M Men 137	Gleaners 227
Boy Scouts 147	Bee-Hive 199
Total.....541	Total..... 799

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Members 386	Members 345
Visitors 106	Visitors 246

These figures show an increased enrollment over the previous year of 200 Young Women and 100 Young Men. Boy Scouts contributed most of the latter increase. In average attendance Young Men led with 73 per cent as compared with 43 per cent for Young Women. The general standard of attainment was raised by more associations following the outlined courses.

The event of the year was the first mission-wide M. I. A. June conference. Missionaries, saints and friends numbering more than 400 travelled from every district of the Mission to the chosen venue at Kidderminster. The 1934-35 slogan, "By My Actions I Will Prove My Allegiance To The Church" was the keynote. Kidderminster and its inspiration will remain deeply ingrained in the hearts of those fortunated to be there. What fields are now awaiting conquest?

"Youth demands recreation, and if it is not provided in high places, will seek it in low places." So said the late Karl G. Maeser, first Church commissioner of education and a teacher without a peer in youth-understanding. The plan and organization are ready but the leaders are few. Have all Young Men and Young Women availed themselves of the opportunity to help their fellow men? If older in years the need is twofold. A change and tonic obtained from association with the young is needed. They need the wisdom and experience. Youth organizations throughout the world are crying for adult leaders.

President David O. McKay, speaking at M. I. A. general conference, said that one of the fundamentals in the practice of true religion was "A willingness to promote social betterment." This is one of the primary qualifications of a real auxiliary worker. There is no more cheering sight than a happy group of young people engaged in healthful recreative and creative pursuits.

A seed was sown in rich soil. It swelled and burst. A white neck thrust its foliate head through the earth. Watered and nourished, it grew and became a sapling, a tree, a shading weather-beaten and respected ancient of the forest.

Another seed was sown. It swelled and burst. A white neck thrust its foliate head through the earth. Watered, it grew and became a sapling, a tree. But the soil, poor in nutriment, was sandy and unstable. The storm came. The fingered roots found no strength in the earth; a twisted trunk lay prostrate upon the earth.

HOMES are the soil in which we grow. They determine our grip on life, our resistance to the storms that beset us. Within those walls are we moulded. The world may chip the corners, but the shape remains. "We Stand For Spirituality and Happiness in The Home" is the new M. I. A. slogan. Spirituality is that which we seek to cultivate within us. Happiness is that which the whole world seeks.

One great nation has for a half generation sought to discredit and nullify home influences. Now attempts are being made to recover lost ground and place Home high in the ideals of that land. Generations past, with their virtues and their faults, have been cradled in the home. This and the next generation can rise no higher than its home. Spirituality and happiness in the home—the cradle of the world.

Two years ago one of the Church authorities said that it would take at least three years to get the British mission M. I. A. onto its feet. The third year is before us.

Organization and the idea of departments and courses were the themes of "year one." Then attention was focused during "year two" on the five-department Mutual with special emphasis on the junior sections. The gem response was that of the Boy Scout department.

Now there are indications that the new season will be outstanding for progress with M Men. Travelling elders have successfully fostered softball. This game and other desirable sports are to be the methods of the year.

(Continued on page 572)

JOSEPH SMITH'S LAST PROPHECY FULFILLED

A Temple Square Incident Recalls Prophet's Prediction

By ELDER LEVI D. THORUP

(Temple Block Guide)

THE following experience occurred while I was conducting a group of tourists around Temple square.

We had reached the monuments of Joseph and Hyrum Smith and I was endeavouring to relate the devotion of Joseph Smith to his people and his testimony. I told of the many persecutions; of Joseph Smith's many arrests, brought about by the false witness of enemies—not enemies of him as a man, but rather enemies of his claim to divine revelation; of the acquittals in each case because of his innocence and divine protection. I then told how the persecution grew steadily worse, and, how Joseph Smith and a few others crossed the river from Nauvoo, to start west; how his wife and others became frightened and sent word for him to return; of his immortal words, "If my life is of no value to my friends, it is of no value to myself;" how he returned and was taken to Carthage jail, where he and Hyrum met their death. I called attention to his premonition of his approaching martyrdom; of his farewell words to his people: "I go as a lamb to the slaughter, but I am calm as a summer morning, because I have a conscience void of offence toward God and all men, and it shall yet be said of me, 'He was murdered in cold blood.'"

We then continued our tour to the first house built in Utah. On the way an elderly woman came to me and introduced herself as Mrs. Harriet S. Hyde of Wells, Nevada, and asked if she might talk to me after the tour was finished. I assured her that she might and received from her the following remarkable story:

"Shortly over 23 years ago, on April 7, 1912, my husband, Delos W. Hyde, and I were returning to our home after attending the general conference of the Church in Salt Lake. We were travelling between Ogden, Utah and Wells, Nevada.

"We noticed in the seat, just across from us, a young couple and a small boy. They were talking about Salt Lake City and the Mormon people. We could tell from their conversation that they were strangers in the community and we became interested enough to promote a conversation with them.

"They asked us a great many questions about the early history and settlement of Salt Lake City and Utah; about Brigham Young and the Mormon people and their beliefs. They seemed deeply impressed with all they had seen and heard and the young stranger said: 'In spite of the fact that Brigham Young had so many wives, and all the stories that are told of him, from what I have seen in Salt Lake City, I am convinced that he was a wonderful man.'

"He then told us that from his earliest childhood he had had a desire to visit Utah and the Mormons. My husband asked him why he had been so interested in the Mormons, even so early in life, and the young man told us this story:

(Continued on page 573)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1935

EDITORIAL

PASSIVE RESISTANCE

RECENTLY the London newspapers gave publicity to a proposed movement that would involve a "passive resistance" to a prospective Government project. One of the published statements was "'organized passive resistance' to any attempt made by the Government to institute compulsory air raid drill is to be urged." Since the suggested opposition is to be on a national scale, we think it well before the movement actually gets under way to call the attention of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the 12th article of our faith which says: "We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers and magistrates, in obeying, honouring and sustaining the law." We have nothing to say here in advocacy of or opposition to the proposed project of the Government but we advise our members to keep article 12 in mind in all their relations with the Government.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

PRIESTHOOD AND THE ACTIVITY MEETING

THROUGHOUT history society has separated its priests into a small and usually powerful class, but in these latter days when political rights have become common and men are looked on as equals, it is a happy situation that every worthy man in the Church of Jesus Christ may hold the Priesthood and enjoy its spiritual democracy.

In such a situation there is danger. The towering authority, which reaches to heaven, may be treated with depreciation by both holders and non-holders of it. We are so accustomed to consider valuable only what is rare that the precious power, because held by toilers and youth, may seem unimportant to vain minds.

The advantages are that the carrying of this authority by man is useful to the Church and to the men honoured with it.

Administration to the sick is a needed and frequent ordinance in the Church. When illness or accident comes it is very desirable to have men holding the Melchizedek Priesthood within reach. How comforting when the father of the family may anoint the sick with oil and lay on hands for their recovery!

Teaching in the homes of the saints, by monthly visits, is also a most useful practice. Where it is done faithfully it brings a

munity in the fold by discovering and alleviating spiritual and material need.

The organizations within the Church are auxiliary to the Priesthood. Frequently the officers and teachers are holders of it. It is appropriate they should be if there are worthy men in the branch to bear these responsibilities.

The usual presidency of three, so common in the Church, requires many members of the Priesthood. Incidentally this pattern is so much more effective than a president and vice-president. The three form a working, harmonious council, while the vice-president of an organization may act only when the president is absent or dead.

Aside from the benefits to the Church, it is highly helpful to the common man to hold the Priesthood and bear the consciousness of its sacred authority. It dignifies life for the prosperous and the poor, the powerful and the humble. It establishes the finest fraternity. Men may be scourged by the adversities of life, but still hold their heads high because they feel they carry the authority of the living God.

To youth it is especially wholesome to feel that they may not go places or do things that violate the spirit of their calling.

Service is the very essence of this divine authority, and without giving active service no man can enjoy the spirit and power of it.

In order better to inspire activity in the Priesthood it is the policy of the Church to hold a weekly meeting of the members of the wards and branches. In the past this has been entirely at the convenience of the different units. However, it has been decided that there is a time which may be made uniform without inconvenience. This is the latter part of Sunday School.

Under instructions of President Joseph F. Merrill the European missions are about to conform to this time. Here in Great Britain it has been tried in some places and found to be very successful.

This meeting should last not less than 15 minutes nor more than 30. Reports should be made of activities for the past week and assignments for the coming one. These concern branch teaching; administration and passing of the sacrament; visiting the sick; looking up children who have reached or passed the age of baptism, in order to instruct them and bring about their desire to enter the Church; passing out tracts; holding Gospel conversations, street meetings and cottage meetings; and all the other services to which the Priesthood is called.

If there is any time left over the *Quorum Bulletin*, printed in connection with the Gospel Doctrine lessons of the Sunday School, gives suggestions as to how it may be well filled.

It is the desire of the Mission authorities to see the Priesthood of Great Britain grow in numbers and especially in faithfulness. We recommend the new plan in all cases where it is possible to adopt it.—JOSEPH J. CANNON.

LEADERS IN THE MISSION

President Samuel Pears of Nottingham District

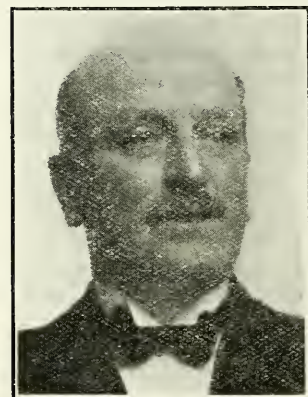
By ELDER ALMA H. BOYCE

STRONG religious feeling was the spirit of the times. Each day on the pit bank men challenged a lone man for his religious beliefs. His aggressors made ready use of the many scurrilous accounts about the Mormons which appeared in the papers almost daily. To each reproach this man of courage offered defence which was clear, reasonable and scriptural; and while he answered his opponents, other men listened and learned.

A young man of 23 first heard the restored Gospel under these circumstances. Its reasonable appeal impressed him. At home after work he would wash the coal dust from his face and hands and turn to the Bible to study the points he had heard during the day at the pit. Study brought a desire for more knowledge. He invited the local elders into his home. After careful investigation he received a conviction of the truth. Soon two men on the pit bank defended the Mormon faith.

Samuel Pears, the young man, was born November 28, 1882 at Shepherd Houses, Cotgrave, Nottinghamshire, the youngest of a family of eight children. His father was a farm labourer. Both his parents were God-fearing, and they reared their children in faith and taught them to live upright before the Lord.

Samuel attended the Church of England Sunday School and then accompanied his parents to the evening



PRESIDENT PEARS

services of the Primitive Methodist church in the village a mile distant.

A change in the employment of his father took the family to Radcliffe-on-Trent when Samuel was ten years of age. Here he attended the Wesleyan Methodist church and the local school.

One Sunday the silence which immediately followed the Sunday School superintendent's appeal for order and attention was broken by conversation between Samuel and another lad. Both were called to the stand and displayed as the two bad boys of the group of two hundred. Young Samuel was overcome with shame. He felt the sting of disfavour and resolved to seek and merit the respect of his fellows. In life he has succeeded to maintain self-respect and gain the esteemed regard of others.

Seven and one-half years of schooling made up of periods somewhat broken and indefinite comprise his school learning. His country surroundings appealed to him; so he spent much time in the fields and on the nearby hills studying the life of the birds

and collecting wild flowers. A youthful liking for composition and poetry has remained with him throughout the years and frequently finds expression as a pastime and in preparing programmes for branch functions. Church publications make up a large part of his collection of fine books which he reads and readily lends to others.

In his twenty-first year Samuel Pears married Sarah Bates. The young couple made their home in Hucknall Torkard, and Samuel went to work in the pit where he heard the Gospel.

Nottingham District

HISTORY of Nottingham district, so far as records show, goes back to 1840, three years after the Gospel was first preached in Britain. It is believed that the first organized branch in what now comprises the district was at Waddington, near Lincoln. At the Mission conference at Manchester, July, 1840, John Ellison reported a branch there consisting of 58 members, two priests, two teachers and one deacon.

A leading song writer in the Church, the late John Jacques, was born at Market Bosworth, near Leicester, January 7, 1827. Among his hymns is the oft-sung "O Say What is Truth?"

Nottingham district now comprises Derby, Eastwood, Hucknall, Leicester, Loughborough, Mansfield and Nottingham branches.
—W. J. A.

They have been blessed with two children: Grace (Mrs. Albert Buckley), and Sidney William, who died in 1923 at the age of 15.

Brother Pears and his wife were baptized together 29 years ago. Their lives have been expressions of their testimonies. M. I. A. president, Sunday School superintendent, branch president, and numerous counsellorships in branch and auxiliary organizations have been Brother Pears' lot in Church work.

In 1914 Hucknall branch needed a president. Samuel Pears was asked to accept the position. He wanted to serve, but he knew he would be of little help to the branch because his work occupied his full time seven days a week. How could he be of service? When would he find time? Samuel Pears did not know, but in faith he responded to the call and asked the Lord in prayer to make it possible for him to fulfill his new office. Immediately he received a change of work and was not again called upon to work on Sunday.

When notice came during the War for him to go away and be a munitions worker, the colliery company asked for his exemption because his services were needed at the mine. Again it was made possible for him, together with the help of willing and able sisters, to watch over the branch during those perilous years when so

many men were called from their homes to the aid of their country.

At work Sam Pears won the respect of his workmates. Through sharing the difficult tasks with his crew, he taught his men to run the machines while he took a turn at the less pleasant work. In confidence the men at the pit elected him to office in the local branch of the Miners' association. He was the local president when the strike of 1926, long to be remembered by every miner of the time, was called and failed. The name of Samuel Pears appeared on the starred list of every colliery and prevented his

getting work. Defeated miners could not ask for the reinstatement of their strike leaders. Other employment must be found; so, with the help of a willing wife, Samuel Pears opened a fish and chip shop, and today they work at their own place of business. Brother Pears likes hard work. Gardening affords pleasant, productive hours; while a few poultry and pigs provide additional activity.

In 1927 he was elected by the second largest vote polled at the election to the Hucknall Urban District Council. Men, many his former workmates, had confidence in him. Though no longer a miner, by request he has continued to serve as secretary and delegate of the Miners' association. As the representative of a group he bears a trust. Someone has said, "To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved."

Brother Pears' Church activity has been marked with measurable success in bringing the Gospel to other people. Through his efforts about thirty people, in many instances whole families, enjoy the blessings of Church membership.

After twenty years as branch president came a brief respite from office in the Church. Then a greater call came. Samuel Pears responded and chose Joseph Orton Jr., John Thomas Wright, and Joseph H. Hayes as first counsellor, second counsellor and clerk, respectively, in Nottingham district presidency.

Brother Pears is a man in his early fifties, good-sized, rather stout, solid in appearance and firm in principle. Scant grey hair and steady grey eyes mark him as a man of character who has been through the mill, tested and proved true.

With sure knowledge of the truth of the Gospel and with strong faith in the efficacy and need of observing the laws of tithing, fasting, and the Word of Wisdom, he works among the saints who respect and love him.

A CALL TO THE YOUTH OF BRITAIN

(Concluded from page 566)

Next June conference may see the Russell Cup and Shield change hands. Whose will they be?

The M. I. A. year is an edifice which, like a building, requires preparation and plans. Executives meet monthly for this purpose. Dates of concerts, parties, Gold and Green balls, M Men-Gleaner banquets and other functions require early choice and reserved accommodation.

More and better recreation, finer appreciation courses and study groups, active departments, and enrollment of two thousand in M. I. A., spirituality and happiness in the home—these are the aims of the new season.

After the night comes the dawn of a new day, new hopes, fresh vitality. The way is clear, the object high. May the ruts we cut point straight the way for those who follow.

"O youth of a noble birthright
Carry on, Carry on, Carry on."

British mission youth, whisper with sleeping Edison: "Have faith; go forward."

OF CURRENT INTEREST

Airways—Regular 16-hour air journeys between Europe and America were predicted by Igor Sikorsky, designer of the Pan-American Clipper ship which broke its own record for flight from San Francisco to Hawaii, while visiting in Salt Lake City recently. He pointed out that flying time of five or six hours for Anglo-American trips was possible but would never be a commercial practicability because of the high cost and discomfort of travel. The Russian-born genius said the greatest recent advance in aircraft is the development of multipitch propellers and flaps or air brakes, "which are to the airplane what the gear shift is

to the automobile, enabling it to cruise at high speeds, yet land at a relatively low speed."

Queen Astrid—Belgium has gone into mourning over the sudden death of Queen Astrid, who was killed when the automobile driven by King Leopold III plunged into a lake near Lucerne, Thursday, August 29. The King escaped without serious injury. Funeral services were held in Brussels Tuesday. *Star* readers will recall that King Leopold and Queen Astrid exchanged messages with European mission presidents at their recent conference in Liege, Belgium (see *Star*, July 25).

JOSEPH SMITH'S LAST PROPHECY FULFILLED

(Concluded from page 567)

"We live in the east, close to where the Mormon people settled in Nauvoo. My grandfather was with the mob that surrounded the Carthage jail and it was my grandfather who fired the gun that killed the Prophet Joseph Smith. I have held that gun in my hands many times and heard the story of the Mormons and this killing so often that it awakened in me a desire to visit the Mormon people."

"His story rather surprised us and awakened in us so strong a desire to know his personal feelings regarding the incident, that Mr. Hyde ventured to ask him if he thought the mob were justified in their action of killing Joseph Smith, to which he quickly replied:

"I certainly do not. If ever there was a man murdered in cold blood, it was Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet."

"My husband then reminded him that he had fulfilled the last prophecy of Joseph Smith. 'It shall yet be said of me, "He was murdered in cold blood."' The stranger then replied:

"That fact makes no difference to my conviction. I have heard the story of the killing and the accusations of the killers and I say in all sincerity. If ever a man was murdered in cold blood, it was Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet."

"I do not belong to any church. I am not of a very religious nature, but if ever the time comes when I feel inclined to join a church, after what I have seen of the people in Salt Lake City and heard of their history, I will join the Mormon Church."—(From the *Deseret News*.)

DISTRICT CONFERENCE NOTICES.—Autumn series of district conferences begins with the holding of Birmingham conference in Kidderminster branch chapel. Activities begin Saturday, September 14, at 5 p.m. Sunday services are at 10 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Living through a century of Mormonism, Elder Moroni Miner died at his Springville, Utah home August 14. He was born in Kirtland, Ohio, June 4, 1835, and was blessed by the Prophet Joseph Smith, whom he recalled seeing many times. Elder Miner walked the entire distance of 1,000 miles across the plains. He fulfilled a mission to the Southern States in 1893.

Writing of Utah in connection with the salt beds where Sir Malcolm Campbell will soon attempt a new speed mark (see *Star* August 29), Mr. Homer Brice says this in the *North Mail and Newcastle Chronicle* (August 21): "I have met many old-time Mormons who were known to have practised polygamy, but the chief thing I know about the inhabitants of Utah today is their extreme kindness to strangers. I doubt if there is a country in the world where the stranger is better received, more handsomely treated, or comes away with a greater number of friends. Nor are there states better governed or sounder in their finances. The word 'Mormon' may still cause a thrill of fear and horror in the minds of some people, but it certainly does not in the minds of those who know Utah. That State figures less in the sensational headlines of the American 'tabloids' than any other state in the Union, and the crime figures are the lowest in proportion to its population. Salt Lake City is one of the most go-ahead cities of its size in the States and is remarkable for its fine buildings and excellent layout."

First meeting held by the Church in Kirtland temple in the past hundred years was conducted there July 19. Elder Melvin J. Ballard of the Council of Twelve was the principal speaker at the services, attended by 86 members of the Church and 50 members of the Reorganized church, which has owned the temple in Ohio for several years. Elder Ballard, at the time, was returning to Salt Lake City from the Book of Mormon monument unveiling ceremonies at Hill Cum-

orah. The Kirtland temple was the first temple erected by the Church in this dispensation.

Pony Express diamond Jubilee was celebrated August 21 in Utah and six other western states through which the route followed, with the riding in relays of Boy Scouts over the old trail. An International radio broadcast over the facilities of the Columbia Broadcasting system was given from Salt Lake City. Arrangements for the rerun through the 23 stations of the "express" in Utah were under the direction of Elder George Albert Smith of the Council of Twelve, president of Utah Trails and Landmarks association. Among the stalwart fathers of the pony express who were honoured was route. The pony express was the Irish-born Howard Egan, a member of the first company of Latter-day Saint Pioneers (see *Star* July 18). He charted and started much of the frontier method of carrying the mails in relays on ponies.

Famed and beloved throughout the world for years as an opera singer, Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink paid tribute to the Tabernacle choir during a recent visit in Salt Lake City. She said: "Salt Lake should be proud of that wonderful choir. Their performance at the San Diego fair was exquisite; Lucy Gates Bowen (soloist) sang beautifully. I should have liked very much to have joined and sung with them, but my work at the studio did not permit it. . . . I hope so much to be able to return to Salt Lake and sing once more before I die, perhaps for some children, yes?"

Visiting in Salt Lake City with Elder Richard R. Lyman of the Council of Twelve recently was Major Oliver J. Todd, noted American engineer who has been in China for some time as chief engineer of China International Famine Relief commission. Major Todd has been supervising work in the flood areas of the Orient.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfers: Elder Preston B. Hoopes was transferred from Birmingham to Leeds district, August 21.

Elder Bernard T. Price was transferred from Leeds to Birmingham district, August 21.

Doings in the Districts: London—President Joseph F. Merrill and Sister Emily T. Merrill were the speakers at Portsmouth branch sacrament services Sunday, August 25, in the branch hall. President Merrill told of the growing esteem for the Church throughout the world and Sister Merrill emphasized the importance of preaching the Gospel by example. Elder Orson K. Taylor, branch president, conducted the services, which included a vocal solo by Miss Light accompanied by Mrs. M. Leach.

More than 100 persons attended the Red Indian demonstration presented by Elders J. Ridge Hicks and Ralph W. Hardy, Thursday, August 22, before Southwest branch at Battersea Town hall. Preliminary remarks were given by District President Andre K. Anastasion and the programme was conducted by Brother John Bleakley.

North London branch Boy Scouts encamped at Hatfield park, Lord Salisbury's estate August 2-9 under the direction of Scoutmaster A. John Willmott and his assistant, Brother A. B. Willmott. All meals were prepared by the Scouts, whose activities included Scoutcraft and camp games.

Annual outing of the North London branch Sunday School was

held at Vale of Heath, Saturday, August 17. Games, races and refreshments provided a good time.

A four-day camp at Williams' farm, Elstree was enjoyed by North London branch Trailbuilders beginning Saturday, August 17. Brother Albert H. Willmott was in charge.

Brother George Warren and Sister A. R. Tomes were in charge of an M. I. A. ramble of Portsmouth branch to Portchester castle Tuesday, August 27. Following a visit in the castle, softball and other games were played.

Another Invitation

FOR the fourth time in recent months elders were invited to address the young men's class of St. John's Congregational church of Burnley, Sunday, August 25.

Joined by the young ladies, the class heard Liverpool District President Fred Bradbry introduce Elder John W. Boud, who spoke on the history of the Lamanites and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. Following the talk, which was illustrated with pictures, time was turned over to questions.

Birmingham—Several saints from Sparkbrook, Handsworth and Nuneaton branches vacationed at a camp at Brean Down, near Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset during Bank Holiday week. Sister Bertha D. Collins was in charge.

Newcastle—Newcastle Sunday School sponsored an outing at South

Shields, Wednesday, August 7. Thirty-nine saints and friends joined in the games and swimming, which were followed by refreshments. The event was planned by Brothers A. Fryer and A. Warren.

Liverpool—Liverpool branch held its annual Sunday School outing Saturday, August 24, on Wallasey sands, Cheshire. Planned by Branch President E. George Patey and Sister Edna Currin, Sunday School secretary, the occasion included games and swimming. Refreshments were served by Sisters Marie Fyfe and Mary C. Gardner.

Blackburn branch Sunday School held its annual picnic Saturday,

August 24, at Southport, where children and adults joined in games and amusements.

Irish—Swimming, games, softball and luncheon were participated in at Belfast branch outing Saturday, August 24, at Newcastle where the mountains of Mourne roll into the sea. Branch President Joseph Darling and his counsellors, Brothers Robert Collins and Andrew Gilliland, were in charge.

Sister Wilhelmina Dodds was baptized by Branch President Joseph Darling and confirmed by Supervising Elder Keith M. McFarlane at ceremonies conducted in Belfast branch hall Sunday, August 25.

Sheffield—Leeds district M Men defeated Sheffield district, 15-10, in a softball game arranged by Supervising Elder Mylan L. Healy at Locke park, Barnsley, Saturday, August 24. Following the game, Barnsley branch was host at a social in the branch hall, 50 persons attending. Branch President Fred K. Birkhead was in charge.

Hull—At services conducted in Hull branch chapel under the direction of Brother Walter Yull of the district presidency, Sisters Annie Elizabeth Oliver Spain and Irene May Spain were baptized by Elder Peter L. Miller, who has been labouring in Swiss-German mission, and were confirmed by Elders Joseph Wood and Miller, respectively.

Bristol—Elders Rex B. Blake and Murrell C. Ballantyne were guests

of Cheltenham Toc H club Monday, August 19. Following a talk on "Mormons in America" by Elder Ballantyne, the elders distributed two copies of the Book of Mormon and 12 pamphlets. They were invited to return for future talks.

Among the participants in Plymouth branch softball is Mr. Rollo Winslow, American consul at Plymouth. Supervising Elder Gordon K. Ashley and Elder C. Van Noy Stewart have been directing the new activity.

Personals—Brother Walter Howarth of Oldham branch and Miss Edith North of Oldham were married at St. Mark's, Chadderton, Saturday, August 24. Given away by her father, the bride wore a blue, elephant crepe dress with a blue, silk crinoline hat and carried a bouquet of cream-coloured roses. Reception was held at the bride's home, where 50 guests were received.

President William H. Gadd of Luton branch and Sister Edna G. Clayton, second counsellor in the Mission Primary board, were married at Luton registry office Saturday, August 10. After the reception at the home of the bride, the newlyweds received a blessing from Presidents Joseph F. Merrill and Joseph J. Cannon. Among the numerous presents received were a chromium plated reading lamp from Luton branch saints and a fruit bowl from the Mission Primary board.

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